



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE
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Richland, Washington 99352

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June 9, 2003

Matthew S. McCormick
Acting Assistant Manager
Richland Operations Office
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, M/S: A5-11
Richland, WA 99352

RECEIVED
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EDMC

Re: Central Plateau Ecological Evaluation

Dear Mr. McCormick:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed Draft B of the Central Plateau Ecological Evaluation (DOE/RL-2001-54, Draft B) and believes it is adequate for the intended purpose of screening ecological risk and identifying data gaps for ecological risk assessment in the central plateau of Hanford.

We recommend that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) now concentrate on applying the data quality objectives (DQO) process to further delineate data gaps and direct more in-depth risk assessment efforts. These in-depth risk assessment efforts need to include focused ecological sampling performed in a pre-decisional context (before Records of Decision are completed for the various operable units). This sampling, along with other assessment and investigation activities, will provide the information needed to confidently choose remedies that eliminate or minimize risk to ecological receptors and limit impacts to their habitat.

The EPA looks forward to working with the DOE, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and stakeholders through the DQO process to arrive at a well-designed risk assessment that will provide risk managers with the necessary tools to make cleanup decisions that are protective of ecological receptors. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at 509 376-8665.

Sincerely,

Craig Cameron
200 Area Project Manager

cc: Nicholas Ceto, EPA
Bryan Foley, DOE
Bruce Ford, Fluor
John Price, Ecology
Adm. Record - 200 Area Ecological Assessment